REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 12–15, 18–30, 33–36, 39, 40 and 43–49 are pending in the present application. Claims 1–4, 7–11, 37, 38, 41 and 42 have been withdrawn in response to a restriction requirement. Claims 12, 25 and 43–49 have been amended. No new matter has been entered.

Claims 12–15, 18–30, 33–36 and 43–49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 39 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,055,538 to Kessenich et al. (hereinafter "Kessenich") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,819,271 to Mahoney et al. (hereinafter "Mahoney").

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101 SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 has been overcome by the amendments made to claims 12, 25, and 43–49. In accordance with the examiner's suggestion, claims 12, 25 and 43–49 have been amended to more clearly recite a technological basis in the body of the claim. Claims 12, 25, and 43–49 are thus allowable.

Claims 13–15, 18–24, 26–30 and 33–36 depend from claim 12 or claim 25. Thus, claims 13–15, 18–24, 26–30 and 33–36 are allowable for at least the reasons that claims 12 and 25 are allowable. The Examiner's rejection of claims 12–15, 18–30, 33–36 and 43–49 should be withdrawn.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

In order to reject a claim for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the prior art must teach or suggest each and every element of the claim and must also suggest combining the elements in the manner contemplated in the claim. *See Northern Telecom, Inc. v. Datapoint Corp.*, 908 F.2d 931, 934 (Fed. Cir.), *cert. denied* 111 S. Ct. 296 (1990); *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 834 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Kessenich describes a system for searching large collections of document using a web browser interface. The system of Kessenich parses the documents to be searched to identify symbols or keywords within the collection of documents. These symbols or keywords are used in a hash table structure which allows searching to determine what subset of documents or files contains the symbol or keyword.

Mahoney describes a system for distribution of corporate information. When information (e.g., corporate annual reports and press releases) are contributed to the system of Mahoney, the contributor may enter the known ticker symbol for the relevant corporation. When a search is performed, the user doing the searching may use a known ticker symbol as part of their query.

The present application relates to a method and system for the reference, archival and retrieval of symbolically linked information in an environment of idiosyncratic symbol usage. As described in the specification, according to one embodiment of the present invention, a master symbol database stores a plurality of master symbols. Each master symbol in the master symbol database is linked to a parent identifier that identifies a unique object. Master symbols stored in the master symbol database are stored in a normalized format to provide a consistent method of referencing and searching the master symbol database.

In contrast to Kessenich and Mahoney, in the example system described in the present application, potentially ambiguous symbols are individually processed to generate unique master symbols that correspond to a unique parent identifier. For example, as described in the present application, the stock ticker symbol "T" refers to an AT&T security in the United States, but in Canada "T" refers to a security of the Telos company. The AT&T "T" symbol and the Telos "T" symbol are processed to generate unique master symbols which correspond to unique parent identifiers for AT&T and Telos, respectfully. Each master symbol may consist of a number of segments, each segment of which is a field which describes a characteristic of the security the master symbol is for. For example, one of the segments may be for the country that the security is from and may be filled by the string "US" for United States or "GB" for Great Britain. These master symbols and parent identifiers are stored in a master symbol database.

When information (e.g., a financial document) is received about a security, an input symbol received with or as part of the information is used to determine which security the information relates to. In order to accomplish this determination accurately, the input symbol is normalized by, for example, putting it into the segmented form used for the master symbols, even though the proper value for all of the segments may not be resolved from the input symbol alone. The master symbol database is then searched for a single master symbol which matches the normalized symbol. If a single match is made then the information can be linked with the parent identifier of the matched master symbol. If a single match cannot be

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made, the system can attempt to fill in information for the unresolved segments of the normalized symbol. For example, information about the contributor of the financial document (e.g., historical patterns from the contributor's previous submissions) may be used to fill in the unresolved fields and the search in the master symbol database may be run again.

When a query for information (e.g., financial documents) regarding a particular symbol (e.g., a stock ticker symbol) is received, a similar process may be followed to match the symbol to a parent identifier by normalizing the symbol and searching for a match in the master symbol database.

Claims 39 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kessenich in view of Mahoney. Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections should be withdrawn.

Claim 39 recites:

> A document repository system allowing electronic retrieval of documents using an input symbol, comprising:
>
> a storage device storing a master symbol database and a document database, the master symbol database storing master symbols, wherein each master symbol is linked to a parent identifier, and the document database storing documents linked to a parent identifier;
>
> a network interface;
>
> a processor, which:
>
> > receives an input symbol via the network interface,
> >
> > *normalizes the input symbol to obtain a normalized input symbol formatted according to a predetermined structure,*
> >
> > *searches the symbol database using the normalized input symbol to find a matching master symbol and a linked parent identifier,* and
> >
> > retrieves documents from the document database that are linked to the parent identifier,
>
> wherein each master symbol is structured according to a symbol template containing at least one symbol field and wherein each master symbol includes at least one symbol segment corresponding respectively to the at least one symbol field defined by the symbol template.

As explained above, the input symbols used by Mahoney to perform its operations are known symbols. Mahoney does not describe "a processor, which" "normalizes the input

symbol to obtain a normalized input symbol formatted according to a predetermined structure" or "searches the symbol database using the normalized input symbol to find a matching master symbol and a linked parent identifier." Furthermore, Mahoney does not describe that "each master symbol is structured according to a symbol template containing at least one symbol field" or that "each master symbol includes at least one symbol segment corresponding respectively to the at least one symbol field defined by the symbol template," nor does the Examiner contend that it does.

Kessenich also does not describe "a processor, which" "normalizes the input symbol to obtain a normalized input symbol formatted according to a predetermined structure" or "searches the symbol database using the normalized input symbol to find a matching master symbol and a linked parent identifier," that "each master symbol is structured according to a symbol template containing at least one symbol field," or that "each master symbol includes at least one symbol segment corresponding respectively to the at least one symbol field defined by the symbol template," nor does the Examiner contend that it does.

Thus, the Examiner's rejection of claim 39 should be withdrawn for at least the reason that neither of Mahoney or Kessnich describes or suggests "a processor, which" "normalizes the input symbol to obtain a normalized input symbol formatted according to a predetermined structure" or "searches the symbol database using the normalized input symbol to find a matching master symbol and a linked parent identifier," that "each master symbol is structured according to a symbol template containing at least one symbol field" or that "each master symbol includes at least one symbol segment corresponding respectively to the at least one symbol field defined by the symbol template."

Claim 40 depends from claim 39. Thus, claim 40 is allowable for at least the reasons that claim 39 is allowable. The Examiner's rejection of claims 39 and 40 should be withdrawn.

IV.   CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance of the present application is therefore earnestly solicited.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.
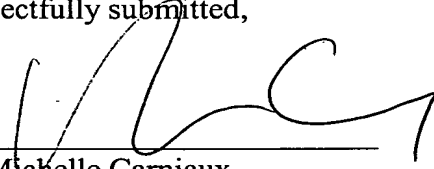
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (212) 425-7200 to discuss the

application.

Respectfully submitted,

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